

**DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH  
AREA PANEL**

**Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 6.00pm**

**At Darlaston Methodist Church, Slater Street, Darlaston**

**Present:**

Councillor Burley (Chair)  
Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Underhill

**In attendance:**

Nicola Holmes – Area Manager  
Jim Nixon – Walsall Housing Group  
Amir Kumar – Local Resident

**Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor James.

158/16

**Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Panel, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

159/16

**Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Burley declared an interest in the following funding items:-

Darlaston Youth Centre  
Rowley Robins  
Summer Sensation

and took no part in discussions or voting thereon.

160/16

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

## Funding Report

The joint report of the Area Manager and the Area Partnership Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) reported that thirteen projects had been put forward for approval as they met the necessary criteria. If the thirteen were supported in full then £36,161.63 would be allocated. The current funding allocation was £30,000.00 so minus £6,161.63 would be available for allocation during the remainder of the year.

Members considered the funding applications within the report and it was:-

### Resolved

That:-

Project	Amount Requested	Match Funding	Approved/not Approved
Mindful Gifts CIC: Therapeutic Activities for all	£1088.00	£0.00	£500.00 approved
Darlaston Youth Centre: IT Learning Hub	£8210.63	£0.00	£4000.00 approved
The House on the Corner Community Centre: Replacing Aging Computers used for residents at the centre	£500.00	£378.00	£250.00 approved
Born to Perform	£1629.00	£0.00	Deferred to September meeting for further information and possible match funding
Bentley Beginnings: Summer Activity for young children	£750.00	£671.00	Not approved

West Midlands Police: Crime Prevention at Darlaston/Bentley	£3000.00	£0.00	£2000.00 approved
Moxley Peoples Centre: Boxing Club and Asian Fashion	£3630.00	£0.00	£1000.00 approved
Rowley Robins: Play and Stay Group for Parents within Darlaston	£2500.00	£0.00	£1500.00 approved
Phoenix Group: Flowers for Vulnerable Community Project	£1314.00	£594.00	£900.00 approved
Aim High Work Support Club	£7490.00	£8986.40	£4000.00 approved
H.O.P.E.S Project (Holiday Opportunities Promoting Employment & Safeguarding) – Moorcroft Wood Primary School	£3900.00	£2660.00	£2000.00 approved
Summer Sensation: Darlaston Locality Team (Sure Start)	£1650.00	£0.00	£1000.00 approved
Darlaston All Active: Disabled and Elderly Social Excursions	£500.00	£280.00	£200.00 approved

162/16

### **Area Manager's Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Partnership Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew attention to paragraph 3.7 of the report and a workshop held on 7 July to discuss the future arrangements for Darlaston Confidential Task Meeting.

Reference was made to paragraph 3.8 of the report and Councillor Chambers expressed concern at the amount of fly tipping appearing on the Old Hall Estate.

Councillor Underhill referred to the litter picks which had been carried out in June and to those which were planned for the summer. The Area Manager reported that she was hoping to get local schools involved so that school children were made aware of the problems of littering.

After further discussion it was

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 163/16 **Future Programme**

Councillor Burley asked if West Midlands Police could be invited to the September meeting of the Committee to discuss community policing in the Darlaston area.

Councillor Chambers suggested that the budget consultation should be considered at a future meeting and Councillor Underhill requested information on the future proposals for the former Darlaston Town Football Club ground and buildings which were in a very poor condition.

### **Resolved**

That these items be considered at future meetings.

## 164/16 **Void Properties**

The Area Manager reported that the Head of Business Change had prepared a briefing note on void properties which would be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Burley referred to the former Boat Public House building which had been the subject of an arson attack and was in poor condition. She added that Planning Enforcement officers were encouraging the owner to tidy the site to prevent further arson attempts. The Area Manager stated that void properties were a major problem across the borough. She added that Community Protection notices were now being used as they provided a faster resolution than employing Planning Enforcement powers.

Councillor Underhill referred to the fact that the former Darlaston Town Football Club buildings were acting as a magnet for local children and she was concerned they were in a dangerous condition.

Councillor Chambers commented that the former Weights and Measures building was an eyesore and should be demolished. However, officers had indicated that because it was within a conservation area, demolition was not possible.

Councillor Underhill asked about the Beer Bank in Darlaston Road. It was reported that enforcement action was being undertaken.

Members expressed concern at the condition of the shops in Pinfold Street opposite Asda Supermarket. It was suggested that the Head of Regeneration and Development should be invited to attend the September meeting to discuss the proposals for the Pinfold Street shops.

### **Resolved**

That officers report back to the September meeting on the matters raised over void properties.

#### **165/16 Active Citizens Programme**

Councillor Burley commented that police input was required and no-one was present from West Midlands Police this evening. She asked that a police presence be invited to the September meeting so that the programme could be discussed.

#### **166/16 Police and Crime matters**

Members were concerned that feedback was not available from West Midlands Police on this matter. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged between Ward Councillors and Police Officers to discuss Police and Crime matters.

#### **167/16 Dates and Venues for future meetings**

### **Resolved**

That the dates and times for future meetings of the Area Panel be noted:

Wednesday 21 September 2016 – Darlaston Methodist Church

Wednesday 16 November 2016 – Darlaston Methodist Church

Tuesday 17 January 2017 – Darlaston Methodist Church

Monday 20 March 2017 – Darlaston Methodist Church

**Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.20pm.

Chair.....

Date.....